

Board of Health Meeting – January 9th, 2019

Division of Substance Abuse and Prevention
Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies.
 - *Next Meeting: January 28th 5:30-6:30pm in the Mayor's Reception Room within City Hall*
- Most recent Data Subcommittee meetings for the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force hosted on January 14th and February 4th. Subcommittee is continuing to work on storyboards that include qualitative and quantitative information to best represent the impact of the epidemic in Lowell from 2013-2018. The intent of these storyboards, once finalized and printed, is to be a shared resource with community partners to display at various locations and events.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant

- Lainnie has continued to work on a shared vehicle Memorandum of Agreement between the six agencies/departments involved in CO-OP.
- Lainnie is creating a Hazmat and Occupational Hazard Policy for the Lowell CO-OP. She has obtained current hazmat and occupational hazard policies from Lowell Fire Department, Lowell Police Department, and Trinity EMS; plan is to review these policies to have a base to pull content from that is most appropriate for the CO-OP's daily practices.
- Lainnie and Maricia will be running the monthly CO-OP Supervisors Meeting on January 29th. This meeting is made up of CO-OP supervisors, grant management staff, and UML research partners. UML researcher partners are a new addition as of this month.
- SPI grant cohort finalized an amendment of the action plan to be more inclusive of the clientele that the CO-OP is encountering and the data that the CO-OP is collecting.

Other:

- Lainnie and Kerran are continuing to work with community partners from Tufts, UML, and Trinity EMS on a journal article re: syringe discard in Lowell based off of the work completed during the yearlong, grant-funded SSP and PEERRS program through Life Connection Center.
- Lainnie, Mike, and Maricia have been part of early discussions with community partners to identify potential sources of transportation for clients actively abusing substances to access various levels of treatment.

*****Update for the Syringe Collection Program Coordinator position – this position had over 30 applicants, of which seven first round interviews and two second round interviews were scheduled. A candidate recommendation has been made to the City Manager. *****

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall M.Ed., MOAPC Coordinator

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): *Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.*

- MOAPC Coordinator coordinating with five school systems for Life Skills Teacher certification in early 2019. Next training planned for 02/2019; exact date to be solidified ASAP.
- Ongoing consultation with other MOAPC cluster coordinators on Life Skills training-building capacity in communities and creating a sustainable model. The Lowell MOAPC Cluster is considered a leader across the state.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Coordinating support with community providers, including Lowell House, to promote and provide overdose prevention and awareness training and resources to high risk populations.

Additional MOAPC activities include:

- Continuing to plan improvements of the drugfreegreaterlowell.org website with new web developer. The new website will bring a more user friendly site covering topics germane to our local communities.
- Facilitated cluster wide MOAPC meetings coordinating efforts throughout the cluster towns and Lowell.
- Tri-Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Task Force. SUP Task Force continues to work on CHIP objectives, including transportation resources and workforce development. In addition, SUP is continuing to share the substance abuse resource handbook that was created for the Substance Abuse Disorder Symposium in December.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

Strategy PFS Grant Coordinator Position Updates:

- New Hire, Lauren Keisling, will start as Outreach Health Educator, coordinator of the PFS grant, on February 4th. Lainnie will continue to act as interim PFS Coordinator until February 4th.

One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

- Lowell High School: Interim PFS Coordinator has continued to meet with school officials to identify ways that PFS can educate youth, including the utilization of a social media campaign.
- Middlesex Community College: PFS is scheduled to attend Wellness Wednesday on January 30th at the Cowan Center. Wellness Wednesdays are a time for local partners to bring resources to MCC students; PFS will focus on nonmedical use of prescription drugs, signs of an opioid overdose, and Narcan.
- Social Media Campaign: At this time, the work towards the social media campaign has been put on pause until the new Outreach Health Coordinator starts.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

- PFS created a one page handout targeting parents/guardians that identifies strategies to store and dispose of unwanted prescription medications. Handout has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Khmer to reach additional populations.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, CO-OP Supervisor

Relationship Building/Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals

- 1/3 The CO-OP team, CO-OP Supervisor, and Jon Kelly from Trinity EMS met with Medford outreach and prevention team. Discussed day to day operations, similarities and differences in populations, and HUB model.

Presentations:

- 2/4/2019 Monday Moments at Billerica House of Corrections

Meetings:

- 1/15 CO-OP Team Meeting
- 1/29 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Trainings:

- 1/8, 1/9 Community Justice, Sequential Intercept Modeling Workshop: Maricia and Sheryl Mercia (CO-OP Police Officer) attended (part of Judge Fortis Mental Health Court). More than 60 local stakeholders from the District Court, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections, LPD, Probation Officers, public defenders, BSAS, LGH, DMH, and Lahey Crisis among others. Follow up meetings are planned within the next 1-2 months to see how the community can better fill in the gaps in treatment. Mental Health Court is set to open in February.

Client Outreach:

- Continued to assist clients getting into the Lowell Transitional Living Center, Narcan training and distribution, and distribution of coats and blankets.

Client Numbers:

Description	December 2019	1/1/19-1/22/19
Total Client Encounters	78	63
Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients	17	10
Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35	1	2
Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment	16	7
CO-OP helped clients with other services	3	3

Other:

- 1/10 Per the request from the City, the CO-OP and Supervisor went to a homeless encampment to advise the people living there that the encampment was scheduled to be cleaned up; residents were advised of shelter and other resources.
- Kevin Jones (LFD) and Sheryl Mercier will participate in training (1/25) for the annual Homeless count. The Homeless count will take place on 1/30.
- The Health Department is continuing to work towards the necessary steps to create one full-time Clinical Recovery Specialist position from the two part-time Clinical Recovery Specialist positions.

Opioid Overdose Alerts:

- 1/10 Chief Winward of Lowell Fire Department issued a Surge Alert due to four fatal opioid overdoses and six nonfatal opioid overdoses in Lowell within five days.